

**March 8:** Tenderness over both supraorbital notches. Tongue coated. Lungs negative except for slight interscapular dullness and a few mucus rales. Heart: soft systolic murmur at apex, transmitted to base. Pulse 75, but not dicrotic. Hyperaesthesia from VI Dorsal vertebra to I Lumbar, also over abdomen and back, especially marked in right hypochondrium and right lumbar region. Spleen not palpated. Rose spots questionable. Marked mechanical irritability over trunk, abdomen and extremities. Marked tenderness over superficial exits of intercostal, ulnar and popliteal nerves. Tenderness of calves. All tendon reflexes present but sluggish.

Examination of ears, by specialist, negative.

**Blood:** 15,000, with 60% polys.

**Urine:** Negative.

**Widal:** Negative.

**Blood Culture:** Sterile

**Von Pirquet:** Negative.

**March 9:** Lumbar puncture, 40 c.c. clear fluid under increased pressure; 500 cells per c.m.m. with 78% lymphocytes. Nonne +; Noguchi ++; Fehling's not reduced. Pellicle formed in 12 hours and numerous acid-fast bacilli demonstrated.

**Course:** From this time the case rapidly progressed to a fatal termination, and within a few hours after the release of the excess cerebro-spinal fluid most of the reflex signs of meningitis were present. Kernig, Babinski, Oppenheim, Neck sign and Brudzinski.

Eight days after entry a broncho-pneumonia supervened and death occurred on the 9th.

**Diagnosis:** Confirmed by autopsy: Tuberculous Basilar Meningitis, Acute Broncho-pneumonia.

**Discussion:** The particular interest in this case lies in the paucity of signs of meningitis, particularly of the tuberculous form. It is frequent enough to have a variability in the reflex signs of tuberculous meningitis so that at one time a Kernig or other pathological reflex is present, at another absent, but it is distinctly unusual to have them absent altogether so long after the onset of the condition, although early in the disease they may be. The headache and generalized hyperaesthesia are fairly frequently encountered as the only symptoms early in a meningococcus septicemia but in such cases blood culture gives the diagnosis in case the cerebro-spinal fluid does not. Increased pressure of the fluid is so frequent a finding in all acute conditions (amply proved in the influenza epidemic) that if increased cells or other changes are not demonstrable, one is not justified in considering such a fluid as absolute evidence of meningeal infection. It is often simply the result of congestion or hypersecretion and comes under the heading meningismus, and is not a true localized infection of the meninges.

The entrance of the case with the report of a positive Widal reaction delayed the making of the correct diagnosis, although this reaction could not be secured again. The justification of indiscriminate lumbar puncture for diagnostic purposes is now being brought in question because of the supposed danger of infection of the meninges in case of a septicemia. The delay in this case, however, was because of the preponderance of signs and symptoms of a typhoidal type of infection. The relatively slow pulse was a development after entry and with the negative findings against typhoid furnished the clue. These consisted in the fact that the spleen was little if any enlarged, only suggestive rose-spots, constipation (so frequent in meningitis) the repeatedly negative Widal reactions and the sterile blood cultures.

The negative von Pirquet Reaction in fulminant tuberculosis in childhood is quite the rule, as is the Diazo Reaction in the urine—the latter has no specificity in any case.

## Book Reviews

**Principles of Nursing.** By Charlotte A. Brown. 262 pp. Illustrated. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1919. Price \$1.75.

In this book of 248 pages the author endeavors to describe the qualifications for a nurse, the principles of personal hygiene, bacteriology, dietetics, and hydrotherapy, and most of the routine procedures and common treatments used in the care of the sick. Naturally, it is merely a synopsis of the subjects treated.

**A Text-Book Upon The Pathogenic Bacteria And Protozoa. For Students of Medicine And Physicians.** By Joseph McFarland, M. D., Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology in the University of Pennsylvania. Ninth edition, thoroughly revised. Octavo of 858 pages with 330 illustrations, a number of them in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Cloth \$4.75 net.

The author has revised the book to supply present day requirements of the student and practitioner. His preface is most interesting, particularly in regard to men of science,—their attitude before, during and after the war. It is a text book that might well be recommended.

S. R. D.

**Foot Care And Shoe Fitting.** By W. L. Mann & S. A. Folsom. 124 pp. Illustrated. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1920. Price \$1.75.

This small manual by two medical officers of the Marine Corps sets forth in plain language comprehensible to laymen and medical corpsmen information on the care of the feet, on methods of recording deformities and on the structure, care and fitting of foot-gear. It will be of interest to medical officers and officers of the line concerned in the care of their men's feet.

L. E.

**An Outline of Genito-Urinary Surgery.** By George C. Smith. 301 pp. Illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1919.

Handbooks, compends and works of that general description, usually call for no special mention and are generally dismissed by the reviewer with perfunctory notices; but here we have a small book which is sufficiently distinctive to merit more serious consideration. The whole scheme of presentation is not only admirably suited to the class of readers for whom it is intended, but the content of the book constitutes an excellent resumé of the scientific principles underlying the modern practice of genito-urinary surgery. We take it that it additionally reflects to a large extent the teaching of that particular school of urology which has its nucleus in the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Inasmuch as the book is primarily intended for students and general practitioners much that is found in larger works on the subject has been eliminated from consideration; on the other hand, considerable stress has been laid on the pathology of various disorders; and it is apparent that the author has taken considerable pains to clearly explain those scientific procedures useful and often necessary in the diagnosis of various genito-urinary diseases. To sum up, the author makes no attempt to make specialists by the study of his book; he describes in detail the diagnostic and therapeutic measures accessible to every medical man, but states definitely the boundary at which medicine ends and urology begins.

A. J. L.

**Modern Surgery: General and Operative.** By J. Chalmers DaCosta, M. D., Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. Eighth Edition, Re-